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insider

A window to the Department for Workforce Investment, Office of Employment & Training

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Armstrong leaves, Frauenhoffer returns

In December 2005, Dr. Penny R. Armstrong left the position of executive director with the Office of Employment and Training to accept another position within state government.

In her departing remarks Armstrong said, "The leadership of the agency will be left in good hands." Andrew Frauenhoffer, who has been serving as deputy commissioner of the Department for Workforce Investment, returned to take over the reins of OET. Frauenhoffer previously held OET's deputy executive director position. He has continued to serve as chairman of the Kentucky Unemployment Insurance Commission and a board member of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board that are administratively housed under OET.

Frauenhoffer will oversee all functions of OET such as unemployment insurance, labor exchange, training programs and labor market information. "OET is so diversified in its programs and services that it has the potential of reaching every business and family in the Commonwealth," Frauenhoffer observed. By continuing to work with our partners and improving technology, I want to ensure that their experience with OET is the best of its kind."

Before coming to state government, Frauenhoffer held various positions with companies in the private sector such as Scott Paper Co. in Mobile, Ala., and Bay West Paper Corp. of Harrodsburg, Ky.

He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Frauenhoffer has resided with his family in Danville since 1992 after moving to Kentucky from Mobile, Ala.

Henderson OET supports deployed soldiers



The Henderson OET and the Department for Community-Based Services (DCBS) staff hold prepaid phone cards that will be sent to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Iraq. Pictured, left to right, are Art Hayden, local veterans employment representative; Rhonda Bowles, OET manager; Marla Owens, DCBS, and Martha Ryan, DCBS. Hayden accepted donations to purchase 19 phone cards. The staff wanted the deployed soldiers in Iraq to know that they continue to support the soldiers as they serve our country.

Prestonsburg OET and Perkins Job Corps collect toys



Prestonsburg OET staff joined the Perkins Job Corps Center to collect toys for the center's annual toy drive. Over 700 children in the Floyd County area received toys as a result of the combined effort.

OET representatives provide resources for career planning

Carlos Cracraft, along with other staff in the Research and Statistics Branch, represented OET in a series of nine workshops provided by the Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA) held in late 2005.

As part of the presentation, Cracraft and his staff demonstrated portions of the Workforce Kentucky Web site. "Not surprisingly, the career section of Workforce Kentucky peaked the interest of the workshop participants again this year," said Cracraft. "This section of the Web site provides useful, current information that teachers and guidance counselors can use to assist students to meet their educational and vocational goals."

In total, about 350 counselors and related professionals attended the workshops that were held at various locations throughout the Commonwealth. Middle and secondary school counselors receive six credit hours of continuing education for participation in the one-day workshops. The participants received information on college financial aid programs, and updates from ACT on testing, as well as information regarding career planning.

Information pertaining to various occupations, along with employment projections from other publications produced by the Research and Statistics Branch, was also discussed. The counselors were offered either electronic or hard copies of the publications for themselves and their students.

The information found on the Web site is not only beneficial to education and training providers but also to employers, job seekers, and economic developers. "The workshops are one important way to reach individuals about the enormous amount of information that is available, how it can be useful to them and where to find it," said Cracraft.

The Workforce Kentucky Web site can be found at: www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov

Henderson's "Adopt a vet – Angel Tree filled with names of those who served"

(Reprinted from *The Gleaner*, Henderson, KY.,
Thursday, December 8, 2005 – Article by Judy
Jenkins, Gleaner Staff)

Some of the 21 veterans served during World War II.

Some served during the Korean War.

And at least four of them served during the Vietnam War.

This Christmas finds all of them in Henderson nursing homes, where they recently were asked what kind of gifts they'd like to open on Dec. 25.

"Most of them said socks and chocolate," relates Rhonda Bowles, office managers for the local branch of the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training. That department did the gift survey among the 21, who represent the various branches of the military.

The veterans' modest requests touched Bowles and others at the state agency who are doing their best to make sure the wishes were granted.

So it was that they recently decided that this Christmas wouldn't focus on the traditional red and green colors of the holidays. Instead, it would celebrate the red, white and blue.

That's why there's a "Veterans Angel Tree" decorated with flags, stars and angel ornaments in the front lobby at the building at 212 N. Water St. the names of each of the veterans in nursing homes are on the ornaments, and the public is urged to "adopt a veteran" for the Yuletide.

"They paid a price and served our country," Bowles said, and therefore they deserve some community recognition beyond what is being done for them by friends or family. Some, she said,

See Page 4 – Henderson's "Adopt a vet"

Madisonville's new approach wins praise

The Madisonville local OET held a mini-job fair in January. A different approach was used that entailed having a job fair over a three-day period with employers set up in the local OET office.

The public was told in advance that employers such as Tyson Foods, Manpower Inc., RGIS Inventory Services, Family Heritage, and MPW Inc. would be on hand for interviews. Nearly 200 people applied for the positions. The employers praised this concept and wanted to know when OET would conduct such an event again.

KWIB Executive Committee Meets

The Executive Committee of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) met in January 2006 to define committee broad objectives and primary areas of responsibility for each committee. Committees have been aligned with the KWIB Strategic Plan and defined as awareness, alignment, accountability and access.

Executive Committee members reviewed specific projects that met the criteria of being within the scope of KWIB that resulted in a revised work plan.

The 25-member KWIB board serves as an advisory board to the Governor concerning the Commonwealth's workforce investment system.

Danville job fair for Panasonic and Trim Masters

Danville OET and Workforce Investment Area (WIA) staff held a two-day job fair in January for Panasonic and Trim Masters employees.

The job fair gave individuals who were laid off or scheduled to be laid off an opportunity to speak to 20 to 25 participating employers and complete applications for interviews.

OET collects for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

The Office of Employment and Training collected canned goods during the holidays in conjunction with the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program that is operated through a grant from DOL/VETS and is administered in Kentucky by the Volunteers of America Inc. and Goodwill Industries.



Left to right, Rick Netherton, DOL director for Veterans Employment and Training in Kentucky; Wendell Hamilton, Claudia Blaylock, and Lisa Gray, with Volunteers of America; Charlie Blythe and Bruce Keller, both with Goodwill Industries; and Ron Murphy, OET deputy executive director gather in OET's central office to kickoff the OET/HVRP project.

With the help of the OET Local Veterans Employment Representatives, the response from OET central and field office staff was overwhelmingly successful. Central office, 11 of OET's 28 field offices and the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) office participated in the drive.

The donations completely filled the back and front of a full-size pick-up truck. This did not include the bags and boxes of food that were delivered by OET field offices directly to the distribution sites.

Henderson's "Adopt a vet" (continued)

have no family. "Most of the things they say they'd like to have cost very little. We're talking about \$5 or \$10." One veteran said he'd like to have a pair of warm-up pants, "but socks and chocolate were the main things they asked for."

Those who would like to provide a gift may come to the agency between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on any weekday prior to Dec. 20. "The 20th is the deadline for getting presents in," said Bowles, who reported they will be delivered to the veterans on the Friday before Christmas by "Santa" and by an agency representative in military uniform.

The effort is being coordinated by the office's Veterans Representative Art Hayden and by Michael Williams and Tanda Blair in the Veterans Work Studies Program. All three are veterans.

The office has another tree with a patriotic theme, and that evergreen is being entered into state competition between the agency branches.

Bowles said that next year the office will begin its holiday effort on behalf of the veterans "on Veterans Day in November" and will strive for an annual event that grows bigger every year.

(Update from Henderson: The Adopt-a-Vet program was embraced by the Henderson OET staff and the community, expanding from 21 to 47 veterans being adopted for Christmas.)

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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